



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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A Tribute to Pete Mohan

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) Special Projects Coordinator, Retired Col. Pete Mohan, passed away Nov. 3, 2008 at the age of 63. He was more than a co-worker or "the state guy;" he was a friend who genuinely loved what he did.



Pete didn't "need" to work, but he wanted to because he enjoyed his second career with the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project. He was a tremendous contributor to both the IM Project and the 1033 Program, where he was instrumental in obtaining huge amounts of surplus military equipment for local jurisdictions around the state of Montana.

Pete cared deeply for his family and those he worked with. He was generous, had a great sense of humor, and was a good friend. He will be sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Pete's name are suggested to the Fort Harrison Thrift Center, Fort Harrison, Montana (406-324-3232) to assist military families in need, or the Friendship Center of Helena, 1430 Sanders, Helena MT 59601, an organization providing shelter and services to battered women and children.

Condolences may be expressed at: <http://www.mem.com/Story.aspx?ID=2695250>. Many tears will be shed as we remember him and his contributions. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Bradford at 406-439-7376, or Chris Christensen at 406-202-3632.

IM Finance Committee

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Finance Committee met in Helena on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at the offices of Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ). Bill Fleiner, Acting IM Finance Chair, began the meeting with a review of action items from the previous meeting. Members reviewed the plan to request use of Public safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Strategic Technology reserve (STR) funds to purchase a modified snow cat and trailer. They also approved the purchase of a communications site.

Scott Bradford, PSSB, indicated that he has completed a draft letter to the Dept. of Justice

requesting a slight re-distribution of COPS grant dollars. He also provided a handout with budget information from South Dakota's program for use in the five-year budget planning process.

Irene Bushnell, AZ, reported that she and Bill sent their first financial report to the legislative audit services department. She briefed the group on outstanding questions that legislative audit personnel have. A meeting or conference call will be scheduled with Northrop Grumman to help answer their questions. Plans are to put general financial reports on the website; and more detailed reports for IM Project Directors may be password protected on the web. A suggestion was made to develop an annual report. Irene also said that draw-down requests with ITSD/PSSB are working well, and work is taking place on a simplified reimbursement process with DES to make for seamless transfers.

Several Decision/Information Requests (DIRs) were addressed and approved, and members heard a report from Mark Canton, Motorola, on Phase II of combiner re-work along the Northern Tier. Josh Morick, Motorola, reviewed a Short-Term System Maintenance Quote that will be reviewed by the IM Technical Committee.

The next regular IM Finance Committee meeting is set for Mon., Dec. 1 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. A special work session may be scheduled before then.

IM Governance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Governance Committee met in Helena on Wed., Nov. 5. Cindy Mullaney gave a review of the IM bylaws, and reported on election time frames, the formation of an audit committee and committee make-up.

Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, brought the group up to date on site and office lease agreements and the purchase of a communications site. George Gupton, Staffing Sub-Committee Chair, provided draft position descriptions for the IM Radio System Administrator and Project Manager positions. Bill Fleiner, IM Governance Committee Chair, provided updates on various Management Resolution Meetings. Scott Bradford, PSSB, reported on the Contract Management Sub-Committee, which is reviewing contract documentation to prepare for closing out the Harris-Stratex contract on the Northern Tier.

Members also were brought up to date on the Training Sub-Committee's fleetmapping work session scheduled in Kalispell the week of Nov. 17. Bill reported on the Oct. 28 press conference that marked



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a milestone in the IM Project by demonstrating hand-held radio connectivity between Havre and Helena. In other business, committee members agreed to recommend to the IM Project Directors approval of the IECGP grant and the FY08 Homeland Security grant award.

Tues., Nov. 25 was set for the next work session on the Sustainability Plan. The next IM Governance Committee meeting will be Mon., Dec. 1 at the Dept. of Corrections Annex Building, located behind 515 N. Sanders in Helena.

IM Project Directors Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on Tues., Nov. 6. IMPD Chair Alan Michaels began the meeting with an introduction of Kevin Bruski, the new Interoperability Montana (IM) Executive Director. Kevin provided an update on the office lease agreement, the Northrop Grumman transition contract, a status update on the Northern Tier microwave project and the recent successful milestone reached when Sheriffs Dutton and Brostrom in Helena and Havre had crystal clear encrypted conversation on 6-watt portable radios.

Kevin also provided copies of job descriptions for IM Project Managers and the System Administrator. The positions will be advertised on a statewide basis. In addition, Kevin indicated that IM representatives need to register a lobbyists for the upcoming Legislative session. Chief Michaels reported on Executive Committee decision making.

Irene Bushnell, Anderson ZurMuehlen (AZ), explained that efforts are underway have financial reports published on the IM website by Jan. 1, 2009. She also reported on a recent meeting with members of the Legislative Audit Services group, and reviewed a list of questions generated. In addition, she has been working on a payroll system.

The board took action to approve an outstanding AZ invoice, approve the return of unspent funds to the FY05 budget (resulting in a surplus), approve funding for the purchase of a snow cat and trailer to provide access to remote sites during the winter, and to approve the project management transition contract. Award letters for the IECGP grant and FY08 Homeland Security grants also were approved. Kevin Bruski will be appointed as the single point of contact for the SCIP plan.

A work session was held on the draft Sustainability Plan, and a rough draft and supporting

documents will be distributed soon. Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee Chair, reported on the Oct. 21 five-year planning meeting and said work is beginning to compile all the information collected. Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, reported on recent microwave system test data and said that site walks are schedule next week along the Northern Tier.

Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman, gave the monthly status report, and the board approved four Decision/Information Requests (DIRs). Participants were invited to attend an Executive Committee meeting regarding the microwave maintenance agreement with the Montana Highway Patrol immediately following the IMPD meeting.

The next IMPD meeting is set for Tues, Dec. 2, at the State Capitol in Helena.

Upcoming Meetings

Nov. 12

Central Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am
Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

Nov. 12

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Bozeman • 10:00 am
Emergency Operations Center, 219 East Tamarack

Nov. 12

Eastern Tier Consortium
Glendive • 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Law Enforcement Center, 440 Colorado Blvd.

Nov. 13

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am
Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

Nov. 17-Nov. 20

Fleetmapping Training Work Session
Kalispell • Mon., 1:00 pm to Thurs. noon
Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 US Highway 93 S.
Pre-registration required

Nov. 20

Western Interoperability Consortium (WICC)
Missoula • 10:00 – noon
Missoula County Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway
Emergency Management Office, basement

Nov. 21

IM Contract Management Sub-Committee
Helena • 8:30 am – noon
Dept. of Corrections Annex Bldg., Behind 515 N. Sanders

Nov. 24

IM Technical Committee Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 172